

# From the Upper Chamber



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## Report for Tuesday, February 13, 2007

The nineteenth day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9<sup>th</sup> stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 147-153, Senate Resolutions 248, 249 and House Bills 89, 91, 119, 120, 171, 320 and 331 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

After the morning roll call, Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30<sup>th</sup>, who took the rostrum to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Hamrick** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Reverend **Eddie Herring** of Carrollton First United Methodist Church, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

There were no unanimous consents.

Sen. **Johnny Grant** of the 25<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to welcome the mayor of Milledgeville, **Richard Bentley**, and Milledgeville Mainstreet member **Cynthia Chipman** to the Senate, and invited Senators to a reception being hosted by the city of Milledgeville and Baldwin County this afternoon.

Sen. **Jack Hill** of the 4<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to remind Senators of the Wild Game Supper being held at the Georgia Train Depot tonight.

Sen. **Don Balfour** of the 9<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to ask Senators to sign onto the Certificate of Need bill.

Sen. **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to remind Senators that the Insurance and Labor Committee will meet tomorrow.

Sen. **Ross Tolleson** of the 20<sup>th</sup> invited Senators to sign his bill regarding the ethanol grant proposal.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Lorenzo Wallace** escorted Senators **Grant, Hill, John Bulloch** of the 11<sup>th</sup> and **George Hooks** of the 14<sup>th</sup> and their guests, members of the Georgia Rural Health Association, to the rostrum.

The Secretary read SR 157, which commends the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizes February 13 as “Rural Health Day.” Sen. **Grant** took the rostrum to thank the association for its efforts.

SR 250-258 were then read and adopted.

Sen. **Hooks** took the well to recognize members from Leadership Sumter, seated in the gallery.

The Senate Local Consent Calendar, consisting of SB 90 and HB 206, was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The Secretary read SB 9, which provides that teachers cannot be coerced into changing a student’s grade. The legislation is otherwise known as the “Grade Integrity Act of 2007.”

Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21<sup>st</sup> took the well to speak to the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 37 to 0.

SB 9 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 38, which requires that a valid form of identification be presented in order to register a vehicle.

Sen. **Rogers** again took the well to speak to the bill.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 35 to 0.

SB 38 passed by substitute by a vote of 50 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 49, which looks to transfer the Division of Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Labor, in order to provide services to deaf-blind individuals.

Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> took the well to present the bill, and thanked the Senators who signed the bill for their support of the legislation.

SB 49 passed by a vote of 47 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 58, which restructures the existing law regarding property taxes on land that spills into more than one county.

Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52<sup>nd</sup> took the well to speak to the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17<sup>th</sup> took the well to recognize members of Leadership Henry visiting the Capitol.

SB 58 passed by a vote of 49 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 94, which seeks to clarify Georgia law relating to the process by which a landlord may seek to lawfully evict a tenant.

Sen. **John Wiles** of the 37<sup>th</sup> took the well to explain that SB 94 does not change the law, but merely clarifies its current language. He yielded to question from Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19<sup>th</sup> and Sens. **Vincent Fort** of the 39<sup>th</sup> and **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 42 to 0.

SB 94 was passed by substitute by a vote of 47 to 4.

The Secretary read SR 123, which urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the costs and effects of raising the water level of Lake Lanier.

Sen. **Jack Murphy** of the 27<sup>th</sup> took the well to welcome members of Leadership Forsyth, seated in the gallery.

Sen. **Lee Hawkins** of the 49<sup>th</sup> took the well to explain the purpose of the resolution. In the tradition of the Senate, he yielded to questions in jest from Sens. **Dan Moody** of the 56<sup>th</sup>, **Hudgens**, **Smith**, **Jeff Mullis** of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, **Chip Pearson** of the 51<sup>st</sup>, **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, **Hamrick**, **Bill Heath** of the 31<sup>st</sup> and **Hooks**. This is a longstanding practice used to “haze” freshman Senators.

SR 123 was adopted by a vote of 49 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 266, which commends the Leadership Clayton Class of 2007.

Sen. **Valencia Seay** of the 34<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to present several of the emerging community leaders of the 2007 class, and congratulated them on their achievements.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 14.

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